Mr. C. Ramalinga Reddi :—" Have these people no remedy against the proposals of the District Magistrate ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" No legal remedies ; but representations to the Executive can of course be made."

Mr. C. Ramalinga Reddi :—" Do I understand that the District Magistrate has discretion to levy this tax on any people he chooses ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" Subject to revision by the Government, yes."

* Mr. Muhammad Ghouse Mian Sahib :—" Having regard to the fact that these offences are non-bailable offences, why should not the Criminal Tribes Act be put in force there ? " (Laughter.)

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" I am afraid the inhabitants of that locality will not certainly feel any elation at that suggestion. It is not the case that they are criminal tribes in the sense that they are addicted to crimes as their normal avocation and preoccupation. It does happen from time to time that during factions even otherwise peaceably disposed people lash themselves into fury and commit excesses."

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—" May I know whether the policy of the Government is to station such punitive police wherever there are factions ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" Not at all. The Government policy however is to station police under section 15 of the Act, 1861, where no other possibility is seen. For instance, if the leaders in a locality concerned will say that they are small things, that the people concerned make these factions, and they are not the result of any undetected crimes, then there will be no necessity for these measures."

The Raja of Ramnad :—" May I ask whether imposition of punitive police is not an extraordinary measure ? If a locality is continuously troublesome, it is only a case for strengthening the ordinary police ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" It is exactly on account of remarks such as these lucidly explained by the Raja of Ramnad that the Government in their order have said that they will study the situation for the next few months and make up their minds as to what is to be done. If the emergency police had been necessary then additional police will be quartered on the locality at the expense of the State. It is hoped however that the ordinary tax-payer should not be compelled to pay for the vagaries of particular individuals."

*Alleged ill-treatment of Adi-Dravida labourers in the tanneries in Ambur.*

* 178 Q.—Mr. R. Veerian : Will the hon. the Law Member and the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government are aware that in the tanneries owned by private persons in and around Ambur, North Arcot district, the Adi-Dravidas who work there as labourers are subjected to great hardships in the matter of residential quarters, medical relief and education of their children ;

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(b) whether it is a fact that infliction of corporal punishments, such as being locked up for a number of days without food, being put into fetters, whipping, etc., by the proprietors or their agents for temporary absence on private business or for inadequate work, is very common in those tanneries;

(c) whether it is a fact that a case of unlawful restraint was reported by one Ammani Ammal, wife of Muthan, to the Sub-Inspector of Police, Ambur, on the morning of 13th February 1925, to the effect that her husband had been confined, bound in chains, for more than five days in a tannery of one V. L. Muhammad Nawaz Sahib, Ambur; and

(d) if the Government have no information with reference to the whole question, whether they will call for the information?

*A.*—(a) & (b) The Government understand that the Adi-Dravida labourers are not subjected to the hardships referred to.

(c) A complaint of wrongful restraint was made as stated. The case was registered and charged but ended in discharge.

(d) Does not arise.

Mr. R. Veerian:—"The answer to clauses (a) and (b) is 'the Government understand that the Adi-Dravida labourers are not subjected to the hardships referred to.' May I know if the matter was inquired into and reported to the Government by the Commissioner of Labour or is it only an inference drawn by the Government?"

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar:—"The Government does not make such inferences."

Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar:—"May I know, Sir, who made the complaint and why did not the police prosecute the person who gave the wrong information if they thought there was absolutely no foundation of truth for the complaint? Further, Sir, it is a very serious charge of wrongful confinement for five days."

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar:—"The complaint was made by one Ammani Ammal. If the hon Member suggests that she should have been prosecuted at once—of course it is a legitimate thing to do—I may say that considering the ignorance of this woman and of the fact that probably she was misled into making this charge, the Government and the local authorities thought that it was not well to prosecute Ammani Ammal."

Mr. R. Veerian:—"With reference to clause (c) may I know if the Government are aware that the sub-magistrate in whose court the case was filed was the tennismate of the local tennis playing officers and that he threatened and induced the witnesses of the Adi-Dravidas not to give strong evidence in favour of the Adi-Dravida?"

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar:—"Mr. President, Sir, I do hope that this would be the last question of the kind that is put on the floor of the House. I am pained that an hon Member should, from his place in the House, suggest that because somebody played tennis with somebody else, therefore he was likely to ask witnesses not to give strong evidence—I think that was the statement made—in a particular criminal case. Sir, it is a statement which none of the magistrates in this country deserve having regard to the sense of responsibility which animates, I would say unanimously animates them all. I trust the hon. Membe

Mr. R. Veerian will see that he is doing injustice to himself, to the magistracy and to the cause of self-government by putting this question."

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—" Is there not the possibility of influencing the sub-magistrate when he becomes a tennismate with the leader of the opposite party ? " (Laughter.)

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" If that question were pushed to its logical conclusion all I can say is that there are new terrors in tennis of which we are not aware."

## Public Works.

*Divisions comprising the circle of the Superintending Engineer, Madras.*

* 179 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR : Will the hon. the Law Member and the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) the divisions comprising the circle of the Superintending Engineer, Madras ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the Ceded districts included in the circle are worse circumstanced in the matter of rain, irrigation and roads than the rest of the area included in the circle ;

(*c*) whether the Kurnool-Cuddapah canal which has cost over a crore of rupees and requires to be developed is situated entirely in the Kurnool and Cuddapah districts ;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that there are many major and minor irrigation projects to be investigated in the Kurnool and Bellary districts, especially with reference to the Tungabhadra channels, the Chepad system, etc. ;

(*e*) whether there is not Government accommodation for office and residential purposes of the Superintending Engineer, if Bellary is again made his headquarters ;

(*f*) whether the change of headquarters to Madras has not added to the difficulties of adequately supervising the roads and the irrigation works and of investigating and suggesting ways and means for improving the irrigation facilities in the Ceded districts and minimising the effects of periodical failures of monsoons therein ; and

(*g*) whether representations have been received by the Government that Bellary should be reconstituted the headquarters of the Superintending Engineer, and if so, what orders have been passed thereon ?

*A.*—(*a*) Bellary, Kurnool, Madanapalle, Chingleput and North and South Presidency.

(*b*) Yes, so far as rainfall is concerned and possibly in the other respects.

(*c*) The canal is situated in the Kurnool and Cuddapah districts.

(*d*) The Government have recently appointed a committee, of which the hon Member is one, to inquire into this matter and advise them.

(*e*) There is no accommodation available now, but arrangements could probably be made.

(*f*) & (*g*) Schemes of retrenchment, no doubt, tend to increase such difficulties as the hon. Member suggests, but the Government have not received any request so far for the reconstitution of the Bellary Circle.